1858 **The Daily Colonist.** 1959

"An Independent Newspaper, The Organ of No Clique or Party"

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Published every morning except Monday by the Colonist Publishers Ltd. at 2631 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 1959

The Enduring Pledge

AFTER nearly two milleniums the unchanging appeal of our Lord's ministry on earth, which came to a climax on the first Easter, remains as the surest stay and hope for all who believe in the Christian ethic. The ebb and flow of civilization and the changing conditions under which men live have not served to alter or to weaken in any way the eternal promise which the first Easter was and the last Easter must be. It is God's will, and not man's, which will be done on earth. It would be a bleak day were it otherwise.

The joy of Easter, and it can be deep for those who have experienced a Gethsemane, is associated with fresh starts and renewed hopes in the minds of men. Easter symbolizes the rebirth of the soul after its own dark hour, even as the earth replenishes itself with the fullness of all new and growing things in the great upthrust of spring. It is with hope and with faith in the eternal promise that life takes on its warmest colors. In a season when "Earth, with its thousand voices, praises God," the inner spirit of mankind is uplifted and comforted.

The vibrant appeal of our Lord's ministry on earth never for one moment begs the central issue. There is no pledge that life will be easy, tribulation avoided or human failure not come. On the contrary, one is taught that there is a temporal and a spiritual experience in all lives, and from seeming disaster in the one may spring the greatest victory in the other. What it must have cost the great Teacher to see all that He had expressed in His life apparently brought to naught at the crucifixion can scarcely be imagined; but it was quickly brushed away by the vindication and the glory of the resurrection. Therein is the eternal promise to mankind, of a sacrifice which can never be in vain.

Today, as in many a troubled time, the world has need of that example; one which the years cannot dim. This will be a better world when there are better people in it; when the things of the spirit have been given their due.

Cause for Disquiet

IT is a dismal commentary on governance that what should be a time of celebration for Newfoundland, the 10th anniversary of its entry into the Canadian federation, should instead be turned into an official day of mourning. That was the latest development last week in the widening dispute between the federal and provincial governments, and it is cause for disquiet.

A federation such as Canada means that frequently there are differing political faiths holding office at Ottawa and one or more of the provincial capitals. This invites a lack of co-operation which unfortunately is evident only too often. In the present instance the breach between Ottawa and St. John's has become wider and more bitter than probably has ever been the case before.

Its beginning was founded in the events associated with the woodworkers' strike in Newfoundland and the steps taken by Premier Smallwood. These caused a wide divergence of opinion between the two governments, and brought about the unpleasing spectacle of the prime minister on the one hand, and the premier on the other, arguing their viewpoints in public utterances. Acerbity and misunderstanding were bound to follow. Now the situation has worsened because of federal decision to limit federation grants for Newfoundland.

The rights and wrong of either side are secondary to the avoidance at all costs of the growth of public anger in Newfoundland against the rest of Canada. As the newest province Newfoundland may be sensitive to the reactions of older Canadians, but it may also be that the rest of Canada does not fully appreciate the peculiar economic and other difficulties of the Atlantic-bound province.

The breach should be healed before it grows into a continuing sore. Both Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Smallwood are Canadians. No province must feel it is set apart from the federation. It is difficult to arrange an international summit meeting of heads of state; it should be easy to arrange a summit meeting of two Canadian government leaders. Canada's prime minister and Newfoundland's premier should get together in private to thrash out troubles that are a reproach to all of Canada. Arguing out loud many miles apart will never bring easement in a situation that is much to be regretted by everyone.

The Dam Bursts

MAGISTRATES, although they come into contact daily with humanity, usually strive to preserve the dignity and decorum associated with the higher courts of law. If they tend to be a little ponderous and avuncular after years on the bench, that is only to be expected; and an air of solemnity helps to maintain the respect which the institution of justice should enjoy even at its initial level.

But even magistrates can forget themselves sometimes and let go language that conveys their own inner feelings about the state of things today. An explosion from a magistrate always makes good newspaper copy, and it is with a sense of delight that one reads of the weary exclamation of one in Edmonton who has graced the bench for many years. The magistrate had listened to a tale of repeated infractions by a motorist with a bad record, and at the end of it all he expressed himself in one terse comment: "It's persons like you that make driving awful."

What a wealth of feeling is wrapped up in that brief remark. Gone for the moment the customary magisterial regard for the niceties of the language, to be replaced by the pent-up exasperation of a man who, after dealing all day with traffic offenders, becomes an ordinary motorist who has to contend in the streets with the kind of impatience, carelessness and crass discourtesy which keeps him busy in court.

Nor did the Edmonton magistrate confine his outburst of disgust to mere words. Along with them he delivered a three months' jail sentence. The traffic courts of the country could do with more like him.

Interpreting the News

Macmillan Wins Praise

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

GREAT BRITAIN greeted the return of its much-travelled prime minister with general approval.

It will be some time before the results of Macmillan's visits to Moscow, Paris, Bonn and Washington can be assessed properly. But few Britons question that the purpose of his travels was laudable, and that he worked hard in his efforts to achieve it.

Even his critics have little ground for complaint with the prime minister's performance. For years, the Opposition has reiterated its pleas for a summit conference. Macmillan has come home with the assurance that the peak is almost certain to be reached this year.

* * *

Nonetheless, the question remains open whether there are reasonable hopes that the chiefs of state can accomplish anything during their deliberations. A great deal of ground must be covered before the talks begin.

In his first presidential press conference, France's Gen. de Gaulle was belligerent in hinting at the consequences of any Communist attempt to blockade West Berlin. None of his remarks contradicted anything Macmillan had to say, but their tone was significant.

His pointed reference to the complete agreement between France and West Germany was a reminder that de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer continue to operate as a "little ginger" group within the Western alliance, united in placing the necessity to stand firm ahead of the desirability of East-West negotiations.

* * *

Since Russia has backed away from the immediacy of its demands for Western withdrawal from Berlin, de Gaulle's rhetoric about Communist blockades appears, temporarily at least, to have little bearing on the situation. But it falls somewhat short of a flexible approach to the summit.

Subsequent exchanges of views between Western capitals will establish the extent to which the general is willing to unbend, and the suppleness of Khrushchev's joints will receive a preliminary test at the preparatory meeting of foreign ministers.

Symbol of Easter...

Crucifix in the Indian Cemetery, West Saanich Road.

—Photo montage by CECIL CLARK

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

BEING the kind of people we are Easter is compounded of many things; colored eggs, for instance, and new hats and lilies and church music and greeting cards and a freshening of the spirit. It is like Christmas, with hope instead of goodwill as the theme. And, as you may note from the symbol above this morning's column, it is tied to the human skein as is Christmas. One may or may not follow the Bible story but we belong to a Christian civilization and, skeptic or believer, we are encompassed by the twin events of 2,000 years ago, the birth and crucifixion of Christ.

Easter is a time of memories. A padre writes for instance of the Good Friday in 1945 when in a prison camp in Germany he was trying to arrange an Easter service and lo, American troops arrived to set them free. It was an awakening, come two days early. Yours truly is apt perhaps to recall the village of Emmaus, just because once he was there and it looked much as it might have done when Christ, as the Book says, startled the two disciples with the triumph of life over death.

The Easter message is not of goodwill but of hope — although the two are associated—and all the mundane things we attach to it are of a piece. A new hat is a freshening. The lilies are a herald of Spring. The earth we turn over reflects the rebirth of the soil. The music makes the spirit soar. The eggs and the bunnies and the greeting cards—these too belong for they draw people in communion. If we do not, as at Christmas, wish each other a merry morn, there is an inward elevation in keeping with the season.

Man cannot live always on the highest plane for he is not of that mould. If he were there would be no need of summit meetings to resolve his rivalries. But this morning most people will be touched by the Easter message whether they are aware of it or not. Those who go to church will be moved by the miracles of rebirth; those to whom the symbol depicted above is of less concern will nevertheless share its impact. For the Easter season is all about us and cannot be escaped. None should want to escape it, for it holds the promise of a new day and a new life. It offers hope, the one thing man cannot do without. But of course each of us must help to make his hope a reality. Resurrection can be personal according to one's bent.

To my readers there goes out from yours truly this happy morn a wish that Easter may bring them peace, content and good health in abundance.

Africa's Struggle

How the West Can Help

By SIR ROY WELENSKY
Prime Minister, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland
(Concluded)

SALISBURY, S. Rhodesia — I am asked what the West can do to win the friendship of African nations, and one answer to that question is clear, certainly to those of us who live here.

It must be realized that you cannot come to terms with an African nationalism which sets politics above everything else, because the particular brand of politics envisaged is not that which is subscribed to in the old democratic countries of the West.

It does not entertain the same regard for probity, for incorruption and for the sanctity of the ballot box.

It hinges upon the cry, "One man, one vote," which embodies a very democratic principle; but unfortunately what happens thereafter generally shapes itself into a series of smashing blows at any opposition that might be so rash as to get itself elected. There has been proof of this during the past year on the west coast of Africa.

* * *

Nor can you come to terms with a movement which may preach passive resistance but which has proved that it is well prepared to resort to violence.

And, I suggest, you cannot come to terms with a movement which eschews all the economic laws which both capital and labor have found essential in the civilized West.

Finally, you cannot come to terms with a movement which is happily confident of its ability to accept Soviet partnership, because that very acceptance sets the seal on its future.

What must happen is that that movement must itself be made to come to terms with the laws of civilization and the normal form of the economic development of a young country. It is here that the West can help. It can, for example, accept what we in this young country of ours have long accepted, namely that the urgent application of capital, skill and education is the first prerequisite, not only of a peaceful multi-racial society but also of the growing participation of the African people in the social, economic and political life of a young country such as ours, on the basis we have adopted that a man is judged by what he can achieve and earn, not by the color of his skin.

* * *

We believe that much can be done in this way to eliminate the discriminations between the colors which are largely an inheritance of the past. All we ask of the West is to pin its faith on its own standards, and to wake up to the realization that by allowing them to go by the board here in Africa something quite unacceptable to Western ideas of statecraft must inevitably take their place.

Africa will be lost to the West if a firm stand is not taken on this question of standards; but I try to emphasize as frequently as I am allowed that what we are asking of the West is no more than what the West requires of itself.

It is, of course, a good thing that countries such as Nigeria and Somaliland are on their way to independence; but let us not delude ourselves as to the stringent demands that independence will make of those countries themselves.

They will have to find a nucleus capable of governing and administering the new independent states, and capable, too, of maintaining standards set in the past; but there must also be a much greater effort on the part of the United States, for example, to pump skill and capital into Africa.

(North American Newspaper Alliance)

Time Capsule . . . — *By G. E. Mortimore*

Rail to the Mainland

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, Golden Miller won the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree in nine minutes 20 and two-fifths seconds, beating Delaneige by five lengths. Golden Miller, the second favorite, had started at eight to one.

Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, the Governor-General of Canada and his lady, arrived in Victoria for a quiet 10-day visit.

Victoria Blue Ribbons, 1933 basketball champions of Canada, lost to the Vancouver Province team in the B.C. finals.

* * *

VANCOUVER ISLAND should have a railway connection with the Mainland, the Daily Colonist said 50 years ago.

"We are sorry to see that . . . the Nanaimo Herald is not disposed to favor an effort to secure a railway connection with the Mainland by way of Bute Inlet or some other route in that neighborhood, but thinks such a project 'too big and above our present deserts.'

"It (the Herald) wants us to confine our advocacy to things that are 'genuine.'

"The project of rail connection with the Mainland by the route mentioned is genuine. The Grand Trunk Pacific has a charter empowering it to build a railway through Vancouver Island to Victoria."

The Pemberton block on Broad Street between Fort and Broughton was destroyed by fire. Loss was estimated at $100,000.

Gerald Waring

Reports from Ottawa

ONE aspect of the Diefenbaker-Smallwood controversy which I am sure must puzzle others as it does me is how it can be wrong to send RCMP reinforcements to Newfoundland, but right for the RCMP already on the island to do what the reinforcements, had they been despatched, presumably would be doing.

That is, maintaining law and order.

Justice Minister Fulton explained in these words the reason behind his novel and ingenious interpretation of the RCMP contract between the two governments:

"I am not prepared to see the RCMP . . . (become) . . . an agency for union-busting."

Now, this remarkable statement must mean either of two things: First, that Fulton has knowledge that the provincial authorities intended to use the reinforcements in a way not in keeping with the RCMP's traditional role as upholders of the law. If so, he has failed to make such knowledge public. Or his statement must mean that the 200 RCMP in Newfoundland have already been used as strike-breakers. But this he denies. The police in Newfoundland, he said, "have done a creditable job of keeping the middle position and in enforcing law and order."

* * *

Fulton then added that "sending 50 more reinforcements would put an entirely different complexion on it." But how? He says that reinforcements would further aggravate the situation, but that begs the question. How would the reinforcements change the complexion of the RCMP in Newfoundland? Fulton has not offered any direct answer to this question, and until he does his reputation is likely to be affected by a suspicion that he used the powers of his office for a political purpose, to embarras and discomfit the Liberal administration in Newfoundland.

The crux of the matter is: if Fulton did not go too far, then he explained too little.

The government of Canada was committed by contract with the government of Newfoundland to send RCMP reinforcements at the latter's request, "if in the opinion of the attorney-general of Canada (i.e., Fulton), having regard to other responsibilities and duties of the force, such increase is possible."

Fulton decided against sending reinforcements, and the cabinet supported him. Many allege that Fulton's decision was a breach of the contract. Whether that is so can be decided finally only by the courts.

If the case ever comes to trial, the courts must decide whether the "having regard" clause of the contract is sufficiently broad to warrant Fulton's interpretation of it. That is that the availability of reinforcements cannot be decided by "a mere mathematical calculation," but must include consideration of factors as broad as the attorney-general's disapproval of policies of the provincial government requesting the reinforcements.

* * *

Fulton sees his responsibility this way: For the RCMP "to be a successful and effective law enforcement agency, there has to be a degree of (public) acceptance of it. If I allow that acceptance to be destroyed, it ceases to be an effective law enforcement agency."

This principle is wholly praiseworthy. But Fulton has not yet sufficiently related it to the situation in Newfoundland to satisfy many observers here.

The Packsack

Of GREGORY CLARK

IN the jammed library of a scholarly friend I noticed here and there on the shelves what appeared to be bright red blocks, a little smaller than books, which I took to be partitions of some sort inserted to divide subject matter. I took one down. It was an ordinary little cardboard box, such as Christmas neckties or gloves come in.

"Ah, those?" said my bookish friend. "I use them to mark the place when I lend a book to somebody. Years ago, I tried to remember who I had lent books to; but it didn't work. Then I thought up the idea of slipping a small sheet of paper in the open space when I lent a book. But the paper got lost or strayed. So, right after Christmas I collect these necktie boxes from the waste basket, paint them red with quick-drying enamel.

"Now, when I lend a book," he said, "I simply insert a box in its place, and in the box, a memo of the date, the name of the book and the name of the borrower. Every once in a while, when I see too many of these red markers on my shelves, I take 'em down and do a little telephoning."

There are a lot of ways to lose books. But not many ways of getting them back.